



Pronouns

A **pronoun** is a word used in place of a noun. Some examples are *I, you, he, she, it, we, they, his, hers, her, its, me, myself, us, yours*, and so on.

Without pronouns: Kevin said Kevin would be going to Kevin's grandmother's house this weekend.

With pronouns: Kevin said **he** would be going to his grandmother's house this weekend.

758.1

Antecedents

An antecedent is the noun that the pronoun refers to or replaces. All pronouns (except interrogative and indefinite pronouns) have antecedents. (See page 534.)

Jamal and Rick tried out for the team, and they both made it.
(*They* refers to *Jamal and Rick*; *it* refers to *team*.)

NOTE Pronouns must agree with their antecedents in number, person, and gender. (See pages 537–538.)

Types of Pronouns

There are several types of pronouns. The most common type is the personal pronoun. (See the chart on page 762.)

758.2

Personal Pronouns

A personal pronoun takes the place of a specific person (or thing) in a sentence. Some common personal pronouns are *I, you, he, she, it, we, and they*.

Suriana would not like to live in Buffalo, New York, because she does not like snow.

758.3

Relative Pronouns

A relative pronoun is both a pronoun and a connecting word. It connects a dependent clause to an independent clause in a complex sentence. Relative pronouns include *who, whose, which, and that*. (See page 576 and 740.6.)

Buffalo, which often gets more than eight feet of snow in a year, is on the northeast shore of Lake Erie.

The United States city that gets the most snow is Valdez, Alaska.

758.4

Interrogative Pronouns

An interrogative pronoun helps ask a question.

Who wants to go to Alaska?

Which of the cities would you visit?

Whom would you like to travel with?

What did you say?



Grammar Practice

Pronouns 1

■ Personal, Relative, and Interrogative Pronouns



For each of the following sentences, identify the underlined pronouns as “personal,” “relative,” or “interrogative.”

Example: Great horned owls, which are the second-largest owls in North America, rely on their night vision to find prey in the dark.

relative

1. An owl near Madison, Wisconsin, was starving in the wild because it had gone blind.
2. Who was brave enough to capture the creature?
3. Sue Theys, the woman who netted the owl, suspected that it had cataracts.
4. She and her husband took the owl to the veterinarian.
5. What does a vet do when an owl can't see?
6. Dr. Chris Murphy, a veterinary eye doctor, decided that he could perform surgery on the bird.
7. Dr. Murphy supervised two other doctors, and they implanted a pair of lenses into the bird's eyes.
8. Whose were they?
9. The lenses were originally made for another owl that ended up not having the surgery.
10. The Theyses gave the bird antibiotics and fed it mice during its recovery.
11. The great horned owl, whose wingspan can reach 55 inches, eats a variety of other animals.

Next Step: Go back to the previous sentences and write the antecedent for each of the personal and relative pronouns.